

## Introduction

The California Fire Plan is the state's road map for reducing the risk of wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the Fire Plan seeks to reduce fire fighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to contribute to ecosystem health. The San Benito – Monterey Unit, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, has designed a plan with the intention of meeting the goals set by both the stakeholders and the California Fire Plan.

CDF addresses fire prevention through its engineering, education and law enforcement programs. Their shared objective is reduced fire hazard and risk. This is more narrowly addressed in a planning process based on ignition management and loss reduction, including biomass harvesting, fire resistant landscaping, mechanical and chemical fuels treatments, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire, safety zone, and escape plans.

Ignitions are managed by preventing fires likely to exceed the capabilities of available suppression forces that could result in large damaging fires. Loss reduction is integral to mitigating large and damaging fires. Significant improvement can be achieved by reducing hazards (fuel buildups around structures and communities) and working with private industry to implement hazard reduction plans around residential developments in the rural-urban intermix areas. Additionally, pre-designated suppression and evacuation plans are effective tools in ensuring civilian and firefighter life safety. Successful programs permit more effective utilization of CDF's initial attack forces and enhance firefighter safety and citizen safety.

